



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 30, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to urge you to petition the Republic of Turkey to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish Government's recognition of the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide is long overdue.

Los Angeles County is home to the largest population of individuals of Armenian descent in the United States. Our County has been greatly enriched by the vast contributions of Armenian Americans economically and culturally, in business, academia, government, and the arts.

On April 24, 2015, Los Angeles County solemnly commemorated the centennial of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, in which the Turkish Ottoman Empire murdered over 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. Such an act clearly meets internationally recognized definitions of genocide, which generally include acts committed to partially or completely destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. Holocaust survivor and creator of the term "genocide" Raphael Lemkin also cited the Turkish campaign of murder against the Armenians as an example of what genocide was meant to describe.

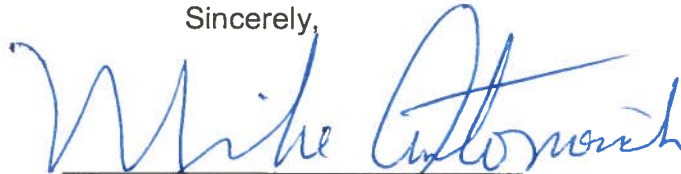
Despite overwhelming evidence, the Turkish Government still denies that the Armenian Genocide ever occurred. Los Angeles County joins the many international and American leaders and elected officials from all levels of government that have forcefully condemned the atrocities committed against the Armenian people by Turkey. Our County is now calling on Turkey to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and its participation in it.

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After a century of denials, the Turkish Government must now acknowledge the genocide its government committed against the Armenian people. We, therefore, respectfully urge you to petition the Republic of Turkey to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide to promote healing and resolution.

Your consideration of this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Mayor of the Board



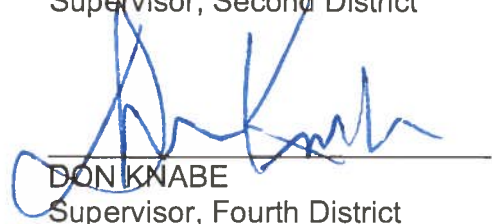
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